

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS	X			
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA		X		
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17					
18					
19					
20					
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22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks To # 4: Please add to the action package on this subject and include respons for DCI signature.

STAT

Executive Secretary

12 Aug 88
Date

Executive Registry

88-3250X

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 1988



Judge William Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

STAT

Dear Judge Webster:

I was surprised to learn that the Air Force is finalizing plans to remove the entire SR-71 detachment from Kadena, Japan by the beginning of October, 1988. I believe that this would be a mistake and could seriously impact our ability to collect critical intelligence data from an important region of the world.

While the Air Force is ostensibly removing one of the aircraft for "operational" purposes alone, it is important to point out that, contrary to the normal operational rotation of the planes, it is my understanding that there are no plans to replace this aircraft with another. Furthermore, a number of civilian contractors have already received word to make plans to move their employees back to the U.S. by October 1. The removal of these personnel would make it nearly impossible to task the plane out of Kadena in the future, even if aircraft were available. Many of these individuals are highly specialized, and we can expect that they will quickly find employment in other areas, leaving the SR-71 program without qualified technicians to maintain the plane.

Clearly, the decision to terminate the SR-71 program should be made only after the Congress and the White House have fully reviewed all of the pertinent data. Until that occurs, I do not believe that the Air Force should take steps which will serve to irreparably damage our critical intelligence capabilities. I would appreciate it if you could review this situation, and ask the President to again lend his strong support to the program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave McCurdy
Member of Congress